Nizam's money in London Bank

4451. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Deccan Chronicle dated 7th March, 2001 captioned "Nizam has $20 Million in London Bank";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to bring back the money to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of 1,007,940 Pounds Sterling and 9 Shillings approximately was maintained in an account in the National Westminster Bank of London in September 1948 in the name of Nizam of Hyderabad's Government. This amount was transferred into an account in the name of the then High Commissioner for Pakistan in London on the irregular instructions of the Nizam's Finance Minister. The funds currently amount to 24,454,350.18 Pounds Sterling approximately.

(c) Government have made several attemtps in the past with the Government of Pakistan and the late erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad and his legal heirs to resolve this issue. Government's efforts continue to address this matter.

Issues discussed with Russian President

4452. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the visit of the Russian President to New Delhi, the question of lightening the burden of sanctions imposed against India in the aftermath of the Nuclear Test in May, 1998 was discussed;